

Mr. Speaker, let me join my fellow brethren and a very grateful nation as we celebrate during National Black History Month, the 200th Anniversary of Boyer Lodge No. 1, the first established Lodge of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. Let me congratulate and recognize Worshipful Master Carlo Smith-Ramsay, leader of Boyer Lodge No. 1 and our 55th Grand Master of the Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Most Worshipful Reverend Dr. Gregory Robeson Smith, 33°, EdD, DMin, MBA, MDiv.

CELEBRATING THE GRAND OPENING OF MAXIM INTEGRATED PRODUCTS' FARMERS BRANCH CAMPUS

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the grand opening of Maxim Integrated Products Inc.'s new campus in Farmers Branch, Texas on March 23, 2012.

As a semiconductor company headquartered in Silicon Valley, California, Maxim's presence in North Texas began in 2001 when it acquired Dallas Semiconductor. Maxim is an impressive Fortune 1000 business with annual revenues of \$2.5 billion and approximately 9,300 employees worldwide, of which nearly 1,400 operate in Texas. The Farmers Branch campus will employ 800 people and is Maxim's second-largest site in the United States. It is the centerpiece for the design of integrated circuits and engineering as well as business management functions such as finance, marketing and customer service.

The 18.5-acre campus will be home to the 138,000 square-foot, employee-named Lone Star Building. The Lone Star Building will house 528 employees with the potential to accommodate a total of 650 people. The building is unique and features state-of-the-art, energy-efficient technology that includes automated lighting and control systems to reduce energy consumption by 37 percent. It also enjoys double-paned insulated windows with low e-coating, a chilled water air conditioning system and a roof that reflects heat.

Maxim has been active in the community by sponsoring the October 2011 Dallas Susan G. Komen "Race for the Cure," with 80 employees participating. Through proactive environmental efforts, the site also recycled more than 90 tons of materials in 2010, including glass, cardboard, paper, metal, plastic and batteries.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating Maxim Integrated Products on the grand opening of its Farmers Branch campus. I am proud to represent Farmers Branch, and I am grateful for the hundreds of jobs the company provides to the North Texas community.

PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 21, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5) to improve patient access to health care services and provide improved medical care by reducing the excessive burden the liability system places on the health care delivery system:

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Chair, ObamaCare is unconstitutional and must be repealed in its entirety. That is why I voted for the full repeal of the President's nationalized healthcare bill, including the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB). I have also introduced legislation to defund the individual mandate provision of ObamaCare. Although I fully support the repeal of IPAB and have cosponsored legislation to repeal it (H.R. 452), I cannot support final passage of H.R. 5 because the bill includes provisions that I believe violate States' rights and the 10th Amendment. As a strict constitutionalist and a fierce defender of States' rights, I cannot accept replacing one unconstitutional law with another.

H.R. 5 imposes a Federal medical liability cap on the States. In effect, this allows the Federal Government to overrule the State governments that have decided to prohibit liability caps. Five States already have constitutional prohibitions on liability caps. I believe that H.R. 5 will supersede these State constitutions and override the will of those legislatures. I myself believe in medical liability caps, like we have in Texas; however, if another State's voters do not want such reform, that is their decision to make. And, their doctors are welcome to keep coming to Texas.

HONORING THE CAREER OF SERGEANT TOM BERGREN OF THE SAINT PAUL POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Sergeant Tom Bergren of the Saint Paul Police Department, and his retirement after 32 dedicated years of service.

Sergeant Bergren represents the finest example of a dedicated community law enforcement professional. His interest in public safety began early. As a child, he would visit his grandparents' home in Saint Paul to pick up local calls on the police scanners, longing to be the responder on the other end. His career formally began in Circle Pines, Minnesota, when in 1976 at 19 years old, he became a reserve officer. After 3 years of service to the residents of Circle Pines as a reserve officer, and later as a full time community-service officer, he entered the Saint Paul Police Academy.

After graduation, Sergeant Bergren served a number of different roles in the Saint Paul Police Department, including time as an officer in

the K-9 unit and as an investigator in auto theft. Bergie, as he became known by those close to him, became a homicide investigator in 2004, ultimately this would be the role that would shape his career. This job demands the utmost dedication, and he not only exceeded these expectations, but inspired those he worked with to do so as well. It was this unrelenting dedication that would help him solve the biggest case of his career.

In 2007, a triple homicide took place in the North End Neighborhood of Saint Paul. Over 4 long years and hundreds of interviews, Sergeant Bergren tirelessly sought to bring closure to the families and bring the assailants to justice. It was this dedication that not only saw the conviction of the two perpetrators, but created a bond between Bergren and families of the victims.

Sergeant Tom Bergren's unparalleled commitment to serving the public has earned him many awards through the years. In 2007, he earned the Detective of the Year award from the Saint Paul Police Department, and just recently, he received a fourth Medal of Commendation from the city.

On his desk sits a sign from the mother of one of the victims of the 2007 homicide, which states "never, never, never give up." On behalf of myself and all of the residents of Saint Paul, I want to thank Sergeant Tom Bergren for never giving up in his efforts to protect and serve the public.

Mr. Speaker, in honor of Sergeant Tom Bergren's 32 years of valiant and dedicated service, I am pleased to submit this statement for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H.R. 5 PROTECTING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice the concerns raised by my constituents regarding the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB).

Though I voted against H.R. 5, the Protecting Access to Healthcare Act, I, too, have concerns about an unelected, unaccountable board tasked with creating cost-cutting plans if Medicare spending exceeds certain levels. Though the Board is prohibited by law from cutting beneficiary policies, and the Congressional Budget Office predicts that a cost-cutting plan will not be triggered during this budget cycle, I urge my House colleagues to revisit this issue. We, as elected representatives of the people, have a Constitutional responsibility to ensure the voices of our constituencies are heard when it comes to the future of Medicare. Walling off those decisions, in order to expedite cost cutting efforts that lack sufficient popular support, is the surest way to a budgetary debacle.

We must preserve access to quality care, while containing costs, but we also must ensure an opportunity for the voice of the people to be heard and their needs to be taken into consideration.